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## Letter from Anna Clemson to Floride Clemson from The Home, 1858 May 9

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when I asked the servant if Mrs  
 McQueen was at home & was  
 answered "She has gone to Judge  
 Evans' funeral". He died at Gov.  
 Hammond's on Thursday in his  
 usual health & died two hours  
 after he returned home & Saturday  
 when we went in was buried. He  
 had some affection of the heart.  
 And speaking of sickness I naturally  
 think of your poor uncle Pat. We  
 had a letter from Dr. Geddings in  
 answer to Mr. C.'s who tho' he speaks  
 cautiously says his situation is  
 precarious & his lungs deeply af-  
 fected. Your uncle Willie writes  
 he is dreadfully emaciated & weak  
 & looks wretchedly & says he has  
 been suffering from diarrhea & an  
 abscess which discharged so much  
 as to weaken him greatly both of  
 which are bad symptoms yet says  
 the doctor thinks he can be taken to  
 Pundleton in a few days as the  
 air of Charleston is too damp & hot  
 for him. Your grandmother who  
 is in Charleston with him says he  
 is very ill but had the day she  
 wrote a little appetite & seems to  
 think he is a little better but Mr.  
 Goudin says in a letter received

They sent by mistake  
 - I don't know what  
 they sent but I don't  
 know what they sent  
 to my darling  
 please of his old  
 overcoat. Ah! it  
 you made it of  
 the stuff it told  
 the an opportunity  
 city or sea it  
 by express?

The Home May 9<sup>th</sup> 1858  
 CHL 580309  
 A  
 C626

whenever the  
 Home looks, & on all, so sweetly  
 as it does this soft, slightly cloudy  
 spring morning, I think of & wish  
 for you more than ever, for I can  
 scarce enjoy anything completely  
 except through those I love. I like  
 yourself, count the days till your  
 return. Our long separation has  
 been a severe trial to me, but when  
 I made up my mind it was  
 best for you I bore it cheerfully.  
 You know I live for & in my child-  
 ren & would never separate from  
 them if for a day could it be avoided.  
 We enjoy having Calhoun with us  
 every week so much - He comes up  
 on Saturday, after his school is over,  
 (which it is by two o'clock) & gets back  
 to school on Monday morning by  
 quarter past eight. The ride is not  
 the best which just suits, as there is no  
 such an early train. He is getting on  
 well, & in the first class of order & the  
 person where he stays gives excellent

accounts of him. He seems anxious  
to learn, & says it is his own fault  
if he does not, as they teach very  
thoroughly, & are very good in ans-  
wering questions, with regard to the  
boys' lessons. He is going on with his  
French & German, & speaks those lan-  
guages during the lessons. We find him  
much improved in manliness, & he  
is learning to keep account of his ex-  
penses. He brings us up fish every  
week. Yesterday he brought up a rock  
which was as long as I am nearly.  
It must have weighed near 50 lbs. He  
gave \$1.25 for it!! Alexander is you  
know a great place for fish. We did  
not board him at Hallonells, but at  
a widow's near there. I went down with  
him, & Mr. Ries, to get him lodgings,  
last Monday week — walked down  
to the cars, walked about Alexander  
& in Washington — fully an hour in  
each place, & walked up home  
again from the cars! Left here at ten  
& got home to dinner by half past  
three!!! I may have written you this  
before — If I did excuse my twice  
told tale. You know the whole affair  
is so extraordinary for me I may be  
excused for repeating it. Last  
Tuesday your father & myself went  
down to Mt. Vernon!!! with Mr. Senff.  
We went down by the boat at 11 o'clock.

drove in to W. where we met Mr. Senff.  
Put up the horses, & went down in  
the boat. We talked about Mr. Vernon  
& were nearly left by the boat, as  
Augustine Washington kept us, saying  
there was no danger, the Capt. would  
wait for us, but he after blowing, &  
ringing, supposed all were on board.  
I had put off, when Mr. Senff ran  
on before, & stopped him, & he put  
back for us. There were twenty  
Savoy Indians on board, in full  
dress, & paint, who were a great  
attraction & made the scene more  
picturesque. They sang — but I  
think you can beat them. They  
seemed to use no words, but made  
a kind of continuous guttural  
hum, striking their spears & tomahawks  
in time. — Speaking of our outgo-  
I must tell you something quite  
singular which occurred yesterday.  
We drove into Washington, & your father  
said "we will stop & take Judge  
Evans, (the Senator from S. Carolina)  
out with us," as he had told us  
he would come out any time we  
called for him. I went to see Mr.  
McQueen, who lives in the same  
house, & was to tell him if at home  
to be ready. I imagine how He felt



says that if this dreadful prostration  
& emaciation is not caused by  
any other disease but by the lung,  
he cannot rally or long survive  
& I fear he is right. We must bear  
this painful suspense as best we  
may & try & hope for the best.

Your grandmother & uncles all  
send love to you & want you to  
write them.

We received Calhoun's things from  
Claymont yesterday which he  
began greatly to read.

Nina is well & as smart as  
ever - Mr. Riss is still here. He has  
spent most of last week at the  
dentists. I suppose it is pretty  
well decided he goes to California.  
Just busy yourself to make anything  
for Nina & me. Bring yourself  
back & you can never come "empty  
handed". I am wearing your  
crochet shawl & a good deal & find  
it pretty & useful.  
I am very busy sewing but am getting  
through by degrees.

My love to all especially your aunt  
B. I am so glad to hear she is so  
well. Nina sends "Just kisses that  
I kept for my darling sister"  
Your ever devoted mother

Yesterday that he had seen Pat  
the day before. <sup>May 9, 1858</sup> That he thought he  
was a little better, but that he (Mr  
Goulding) thought him weaker, & rather  
worse than better. I tell you all this  
because I know you are <sup>626</sup> anxious  
to know everything. We hardly know  
what to think, & are very unhappy  
about him. If he can stand the  
journey to Pendleton, I shall have  
some hopes he may rally for a  
time at least but I greatly fear  
he will never leave Charleston.  
I will write you all I hear. I think  
it would give him pleasure to  
hear from you, but I don't know  
where to tell you to write him. Suppose  
you write, & enclose me your letter,  
& when I hear, which I hope I shall  
in a few days, I will forward it.  
Write neither grave, nor gay. If  
you write too sadly, he may think  
we know he is in danger, & it may  
affect his spirits, & he is so ill easily  
wounded out of place. With this say,  
his spirits are usually good, & he  
does not often give way to despondency.  
If he lives a month, I think he may  
get about again, but your father,  
whom you know is very fond of him